



THE BUZZARD BULLETIN

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

December, 2024-January, 2025

Volume 9, Issue 2

NOTEPAD

Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteer **Liz Johnson**.

Help!

Guides and sweeps are really needed for the guided hikes. See page 2.

Meet Trish

Trish Schranck joins the CREW Trust staff as the new Engagement Coordinator. She comes from Lovers Key State Park where she was a Park Services Specialist for the past three years.



Meet the Interns

Four interns joined CREW for the fall semester. Environmental Education interns are **Silas Locke** and **Dominic Perno**. Communications interns are **Victor de Armas** and **Yohn Villalto**.

Photos and brief bios are on the staff page of the CREW Trust web page: <https://crewtrust.org/staff/>

Identify, report non-native invasives in the field with new, free phone app

A new app for Apple and Android phones is now available. It allows users to report invasive species directly to FWC.

The observations can be sent in the field or later at home.

The app captures the current location of the sighting and allows people to submit an image of the sighting.

Another section of the app is a field guide intended to help identify many of



Florida's worst non-native invasive animals and plants.

When one is identified, there's a "Report" button at the top of each species page that will submit the image and location.

There are also real-time point distribution maps centered on your current location that show other sightings of the same species.

It's free. Download in the app store and search for IveGot1.

Trail questions answered...

When might I see a baby (*fill in the blank*)?

If a baby creature is spotted, please give it plenty of room to avoid stressing it out. A very protective parent is probably very close and will be watching you.

Bobcat: breeding occurs from fall through spring, peaking in February and March; kittens are born about two months later

Black Bear: breeding is from mid-June to mid-August; cubs are born in late January to mid February

Panther: breeding any time but most often from December to March; gestation lasts about three months

River Otter: mating occurs from December through April, pups born about two months later

Raccoon: mating season usually is from January to March; baby raccoons typically born in April or May

Coyote: courtship begins in early winter and mating occurs in late winter; pups are born about two months later

Marsh & Cottontail Rabbits: breeding occurs year-round but peaks December through June

Virginia Opossum: breeding is from December through midsummer with typically two litters each year

Armadillo: breeding occurs from June to July, but birth doesn't occur until the following spring

Alligator: courtship begins in early April and mating occurs in May or early June; gators hatch from late August to early September

Giving Tuesday happening December 3

Giving Tuesday is an ideal time to reflect on year-end charitable support and make a contribution.

Please consider donating to the CREW Trust. All donations support its education programs.

Plan for 2024-2025, mark calendars

Brewery, winery sites for upcoming volunteer socials

Two socials are already planned for the 2024-2025 season.

Information and registration are posted in Track-it-Forward. Also, look for emails with more information closer to the event dates.

Dec. 11: Riptide Brewery
Bonita Springs

Mar. 12: RAD Winery & Cidery
Estero

Hunters active on some CREW lands

FWC allows hunting in CDT and part of FPS during part of the year.

A map of the FPS hunting area is in the December, 2020, issue of *The Buzzard Bulletin* which is available in the CREW Trust web site in the volunteer library.

Dec. 7-Jan. 5 small game
Feb. 22-23 youth spring turkey
Mar. 1-9 spring turkey

Staying connected

People

Bob Lucius
831-236-5518
rlucius@crewtrust.org

Piper Jones
239-229-1088
education@crewtrust.org

Robin Serne
919-649-7158
robin@crewtrust.org

Trish Schranck
239-657-2253
ee@crewtrust.org

Web sites

www.crewtrust.org
www.trackitforward.com
(hours & events)

The Buzzard Bulletin contains notes and information for CREW volunteers and is emailed six times a year (September, November, January, March, May, July). Dick Brewer, editor.

Opportunities set for volunteers-only learning sessions

Information, times, and sign-up will be in Track-it-Forward. Please check regularly for changes and additions to the calendar.

Dec. 4: Interpretation, FPS

Dec. 10: Tools & Trucks, meet at CREW office

Dec. 18: Flora & Fauna at BRS

Jan. 4: Fire and Land Management, CMT

Socials, full moon hikes, grand openings planned for CREW Trust members

Volunteer assistance is not needed at member-only programs, but volunteers who are also CREW Trust members are invited to attend.

Information and registration is at www.eventbrite.com/cc/members-only-2759009

Dec. 14: Grand opening FPS campsite
Jan. 13: Full moon night hike, CMT
Jan. 24: Morning Roll & Stroll, FPS
Feb. 13: Sunset hike, FPS
Feb. 19: Member appreciation social
Mar. 14: Full moon night hike, CMT
Mar. 29: New Moon Bat Watch, CMT
Apr. 5: Member meeting, office
Apr. 19: Morning Roll & Stroll, BRS
Apr. 25: Nighttime Bug Watch, CMT

Trail work Tuesdays

Volunteers who would rather work on maintenance projects are invited to join the Trail Work Tuesdays (and sometimes Thursdays).

Examples of work include painting trail marker posts, weed whacking, trimming with loppers, and maintaining campsites and parking areas.

Information and sign up are in Track-it-Forward. For more information about specific projects and needs, please contact Robin.

Enjoy CREW's flora, fauna, and everything in between

Each year, the CREW Trust brings in subject matter experts to lead guided hikes along the CREW trails. This year there is a mix of familiar faces and some new ones.

Volunteers are needed to help at a walk or presentation and are invited to get a closer look at flora, fauna, and everything in between.

Information, times, and sign-up are posted in Track-it-Forward.

Please check regularly for any changes to the schedule in case of inclement weather, and look for additions of pop-up events to the calendar.

Sweeps needed, Strolling Science Seminars

All programs begin at 9AM unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 7: Birding for Kids, CMT
Jan. 11: Edible/Medicinal Plants, BRS
Jan. 18: CREW Trail cameras, CDT
Feb. 1: Log Life for Kids, FPS
Feb. 8: Kids' First Hike Tips, CMT
Feb. 15: Biodiversity, CMT
Mar. 1: Herpetology for Kids, FPS
Mar. 15: Blooms at Sunset, CMT
Apr. 5: Arachnids, CMT
Apr. 12: Bird Science, BRS, 8AM

Help needed, In Town Lectures

Feb. 26: FPS Restoration
Mar. 19: Trail Cams for Backyards

Leaders, sweeps needed, weekly walks

November-April except holidays

Wednesdays: BRS
Thursdays: alternate CMT-CDT-FPS
3rd Saturdays: BRS

Sweeps needed, bird walks

~~Dec. 9: Winter birds, CMT~~
Jan. 8: Winter shorebirds, FPS
Feb. 17: Songbird migration, BRS
Mar. 12: Swallow-tailed Kites, CDT
Apr. 9: Spring migration, FPS